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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,576	03/12/2004	Erhard Liebig	61277-60010	6523
25243	7590	05/04/2005	EXAMINER	
COLLIER SHANNON SCOTT, PLLC			THEISEN, DOUGLAS J	
3050 K STREET, NW			ART UNIT	
SUITE 400			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20007			1724	

DATE MAILED: 05/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/798,576

Applicant(s)

LIEBIG, ERHARD

Examiner

Douglas J. Theisen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2004.  
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are allowed.  
6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 031204.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION*****Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to because the single figure has been labeled "Fig. 1". Where only a single view is used in an application to illustrate the invention, it must not be numbered and the abbreviation "Fig." must not appear. See MPEP 608.02 V. (u) (1). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 32, "WDKL" in upper right portion of drawing, and "1" or "I" near reference no. 5 (combustion air) and reference no. 1 (compressor). Corrected drawing sheets in

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compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Specification*

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: On page 5 lines 10, 14, and 21 "Fig. 1" needs to be changed to "the Figure".

Appropriate correction is required.

4. Claim 12 is objected to because of the following informalities: In line 3 the first instance of "and" should be changed to "to", so that the middle of line 2 to the middle of line 3 reads "... and a connection line leading from the first condensate preheater to the second condensate preheater ...". Appropriate correction is required.

5. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 1 "degraser" should be changed to "degaser". Appropriate correction is required.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

6. Claims 1-15 are allowed.

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7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The reasons for allowance are that the closest prior art, U.S. patent no. 6,089,013 to Bruckner et al. describes a method for thermally degassing a working fluid of a two-phase working cycle, the method comprising: preheating a condensate mass flow (condensate 4 in preheater 6); feeding preheated condensate into feedwater tank/degaser means (deaerator 24/feedwater tank 26), extracting a feedwater mass flow from the feedwater tank/degaser means and feeding the feedwater mass flow to heating surfaces located in a heat recovery steam generator (feedwater 36 to economizer 42 in waste-heat steam generator 1). Bruckner does not describe applicant's features of preheating the condensate mass flow in a first condensate preheater; further preheating a condensate flow fraction of the preheated condensate mass flow in a second condensate preheater; feeding residual condensate mass flow into the feedwater tank/degaser means; and introducing the condensate flow fraction into the feedwater tank/degaser means, thus heating the working fluid in the feedwater tank/ degaser means with the condensate flow fraction. Bruckner shows a degassing device comprising a condensate preheater (preheater 6) and a feedwater tank/degaser means (deaerator 24/feedwater tank 26) having a first fluid inlet line 18 through valve 22) and a heating fluid inlet (nozzle pipe 30). Bruckner does not show applicant's features of a degassing device comprising a first condensate preheater, a second condensate preheater, and a connection line leading from the first condensate preheater to the second condensate preheater, and a feedwater tank/degaser means having a first fluid inlet and a heating fluid inlet, a first line branching off between the first condensate preheater and the second condensate preheater and leading to the first fluid

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inlet, and a second line leading from the second condensate preheater to the heating fluid inlet.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

The objections to the drawings and to the specification noted above.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas J. Theisen whose telephone number is 571-272-1168. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 6:30 until 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

djt

DUANE SMITH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

10-2A  
5-205